

Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Toko Fujii's friends and family gather to celebrate and honor his legacy and many contributions, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most well respected citizens. His successes are unparalleled, and it is great honor for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his accomplishments. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the deeds of an extraordinary leader.

### HONORING WESTFIELD WORKS WONDERS

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2001*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fifth annual Westfield Works Wonders event which is being celebrated in shopping malls across the nation. Over the last five years, this wonderful charity event has raised millions of dollars for national and local non-profits and charities.

First implemented in Connecticut in 1997, the Westfield Works Wonders program began as a project to benefit local non-profits and charities. In just three years, the event achieved outstanding results raising upwards of one million dollars and attracting more than 120,000 shoppers to the four centers in Connecticut. Due to its local success in Connecticut, Westfield Wonder Works was rolled out as a national program in 1999. In its two-year national history, malls across the nation have raised almost three million dollars in contributions for thousands of non-profits and charities.

The simplicity of the program is one of its greatest benefits. Westfield Works Wonders is a one-day three hour event held in November when shoppers are ready to begin their holiday shopping. For a five dollar donation, shoppers enjoy a private evening at Westfield Shoppingtowns with special discounts, instore promotions, prize giveaways, entertainment, celebrity appearances, free photos with Santa, and more. All ticket proceeds are donated directly to participating organizations. In Connecticut alone, over sixty non-profits and charities will receive invaluable funding.

It is important to recognize the dreams and wishes that are made a reality by this special event. The money raised helps thousands of children and families receive much needed services. Hospitals, schools and a variety of national and local charities all benefit from the generosity of the over half a million people who attend this event nationwide. With a small donation, people can make a real difference in the lives of many.

I am proud to stand today to recognize the tremendous contribution Westfield Shoppingtowns are making to communities across the nation. I am honored to take this opportunity to extend my thanks and appreciation to all of those—from Westfield America to the thousands of retail employees—who make this evening possible. Your efforts are truly inspiring.

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO DEBBIE JOHNS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Debbie Johns and thank her for the contributions she has made to the School District 51 Board in Clifton, Colorado. Debbie has served on the school board for over sixteen years, and though she will be dearly missed, I am happy to congratulate Debbie on her retirement.

Debbie was elected to School District 51 Board in 1985. She ran for office because of concerns she had over school redistricting and how it would affect her children's lives. Since then, Debbie has been elected three more times to the board with the help of her campaign staff and her family. She has been instrumental in many changes that have occurred to the district during her tenure. While in office, six new schools have been built and another twenty have undergone renovations.

When not meeting with the board, Debbie can be found distributing her time between managing a doctor's office and caring for her family. This is no easy task considering Debbie works an average of seventy hours per week in her management position. Despite her newfound freedom, Debbie already plans to fill the void by donating her time to the Mesa County Public Library literacy program.

Mr. Speaker it is a great privilege to honor Debbie Johns and wish her the best as she steps down from the School District 51 Board. She has dedicated her energy and time to the community for the last sixteen years and certainly deserves the praise and admiration of this body. Debbie, thank you for your dedicated service.

### UNITED THROUGH IT ALL

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2001*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following poem for the RECORD.

#### UNITED THROUGH IT ALL

(By Mike Allen and Randall Bayne)

On an island in the harbor,  
Lady Liberty's darkest day,  
Terror rose against our land.  
Evil had its way.

We witnessed two strong towers  
As they came crashing down,  
Innocent lives were sacrificed  
In rubble on the ground.

We stood in awe, in disbelief,  
Souls of thousands fell.  
In the horror of the picture,  
In the midst of this hell.

We bound our spirits in resolve  
To answer freedoms call.

This is America,  
We'll rise above it all.  
We're united in our victory,  
United in our cause.  
We'll stand against all enemies,  
Liberty has no walls.

We're stronger than those towers,

This country will not fall.

We are Americans,  
United through it all.

We'll bind our wounded.  
Grieve for those who died.  
Praise the heroes' efforts.  
And sing out with pride,

"America, America  
God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good  
With brotherhood."

For we're united in our victory,  
United in our cause.

We'll stand against all enemies,  
Liberty has no walls.

We're stronger than those towers,  
This country will not fall.

We are Americans,  
United through it all.

### UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARDS HAITI

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2001*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern regarding current United States policy towards Haiti.

Haiti's human and development statistics are alarming. The life expectancy of the average Haitian is only 53 years, and this number is certain to decline as the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the country becomes even more severe. According to UNAIDS, the United Nations agency responsible for addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic, more than 5% of the adult population is HIV-positive, and some sectors of the population have infection rates of over 50%. In other human development categories, Haiti's record is just as lamentable. Half of Haitian adults are illiterate, and more than 1 in 4 children under the age of 5 are malnourished. Haiti ranks 152nd out of 174 on the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Index, below such countries as Bangladesh and Sudan.

In previous years, the United States pursued a constructive relationship with Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Between FY 95 and FY 99, the United States provided \$884 million in critical development assistance funds to support agricultural development, democracy and governance, teacher training, health care, and many other programs. The United States also supported multilateral institutions that worked to improve the lives of ordinary Haitians. More recently, however, the United States has pursued a myopic policy towards Haiti and has used its veto power to prevent the disbursement of funds from multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The board of directors of the IDB has already approved \$146 million in social sector loans for Haiti, but because of United States policy, these funds have been blocked from improving the lives of 8 million Haitians. This policy must change.

In order for the living standards and life chances of ordinary Haitians to improve, international development assistance is critical. The United States must change its current policy towards Haiti so that it may receive multilateral funds for pressing development needs.